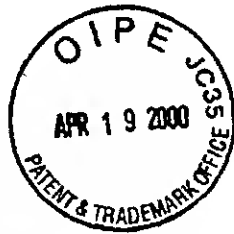


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RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE
EXAMINING GROUP 2851

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684.2728

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

| | | |
|-----------------------------|---|----------------------|
| In re Application of: |) | |
| TOMOHARU HASE |) | Examiner: H. Nguyen |
| Appln. No.: 09/145,982 |) | Group Art Unit: 2851 |
| Filed: September 3, 1998 |) | |
| For: EXPOSURE APPARATUS AND |) | April 19, 2000 |
| DEVICE MANUFACTURING |) | |
| METHOD INCLUDING GAS |) | |
| PURGING OF A SPACE |) | |
| CONTAINING OPTICAL |) | |
| COMPONENTS |) | |

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
BOX AF
Washington, D.C. 20231

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PETITION UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a)

Sir:

Applicant petitions the Assistant Commissioner of Patents to extend the time for response to the Office Action dated October 20, 1999 for three (3) months from January 20, 2000 to April 20, 2000.

04/20/2000 SLUWNG1 00000031 09145982

01 FC:117

870.00 00

Submitted herewith is a check for \$ 870.00 to cover the fee for the extension under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17. Any deficiency in or overpayment of this fee should be charged or credited to Deposit Account No. 06-1205. A duplicate copy of this petition is enclosed.

Applicant's attorney, Steven E. Warner, may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



Attorney for Applicant
Richard P. Bauer
Registration No. 31,588

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30 Rockefeller Plaza
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